

KIDNEY CARE QUALITY ALLIANCE

MINUTES Kidney Care Quality Alliance Steering Committee June 22, 2009 Conference Call

ATTENDEES

ANNA	Gail Wick (Co-chair)
ASPN	Barbara Fivush
CMS Liaison	Barry Straube
FMC	Raymond Hakim (Co-chair)
NRAA	Maureen Michael
KCP	Linda Keegan, Robyn Nishimi, Lisa McGonigal

SUMMARY

Dr. McGonigal opened the meeting with a roll call, after which she noted there were two primary agenda items—Steering Committee approval of the April 15th conference call minutes and a status report on the KCQA performance measures pilot testing.

CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES

The Steering Committee approved the conference call minutes from April 15, 2009.

STATUS REPORT ON PERFORMANCE MEASURES PILOT TEST

Dr. McGonigal provided an update on the status of the pilot test. She reminded the Steering Committee that the field phase of the pilot formally commenced in October 2008 and that the Committee had reviewed data from Quarter 2 (December 2008-February 2009) during its April conference call.

Dr. McGonigal informed the Steering Committee that of the 57 dialysis facilities participating in the pilot, third quarter data have been received from 30 facilities, on a total of 704 patients. Of the facilities that have not yet submitted third quarter data, Dr. McGonigal noted that two have also not yet submitted first (September-November 2008) or second quarter data; another three have not submitted second quarter data only. The data from all 27 delinquent facilities were excluded from the information being reported to the Steering Committee.

Dr. McGonigal then reminded the Steering Committee that data collection for the influenza vaccination measure concludes with the third quarter submission. Thus, while several facilities have yet to submit their third quarter data, she noted that the results from the 30 facilities reporting to date are indicative of the final test results for the measure.

Dr. McGonigal reviewed the third quarter data gathered on the Vascular Access, Influenza Vaccination, and Patient Education Awareness measures, then reported on some general impressions from the pilot, as follows:

- *Burden:* Dr. McGonigal reported that the average time to complete the data collection forms for the third quarter continues to decrease as compared to the first and second quarters, and that we expect the time burden to further decrease in the fourth period.

- *Comprehension:* Dr. McGonigal informed the Steering Committee that, as with the previous quarters, there were no evident areas of confusion or incomprehension.
- *Completeness:* Dr. McGonigal noted that submitted data collection forms continue to be largely complete.

While delinquent data remains, Dr. McGonigal reported that the pilot has to date largely indicated that the measures are feasible and usable.

STEERING COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Dr. Hakim noted that primary failure is an issue that will affect performance on the vascular access measure. Ms. Michael added that lack of funding is another concern with this measure, and questioned whether this is addressed in the specifications. Dr. Nishimi responded that as specified, the measure does not capture funding issues.

Dr. Hakim then remarked that transplant centers are better equipped to provide detailed patient education on transplants than dialysis facilities. Dr. Straube responded that the burden of education is on dialysis facility staff. He also noted that the primary nephrologist is in the best position to educate patients and should be doing so. He added that educators might have a bias about what modality is best for a given patient and that financial issues also come into play. He suggested that some type of independent counseling that offers patients a neutral perspective would be of value and should be considered in the future. Dr. Hakim agreed that the best education comes from the attending nephrologist, and that the Conditions for Coverage complicate the process. Dr. Straube replied that the Conditions are not intended to supercede the attending physician. He asserted that ultimately, in terms of integrating various sites of care, everyone is on the same team. He concluded that greater integration of the system would facilitate Dr. Hakim's vision.

NEXT STEPS

Dr. Nishimi concluded by advising that a review of updated third quarter results will be presented to the Steering Committee during its August 17th conference call. She informed the Committee that packets for the fourth quarter data collection period (June-August 2009) will be distributed electronically and via U.S. mail during the last week of August and will be due in early September. Fourth quarter results will be discussed during the Steering Committee conference call on September 21st.